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ON PAGE **A-22**

NEW YORK TIMES  
11 December 1985

# F.B.I. CHIEF WARNS ARABS OF DANGER

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10 — William H. Webster, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, said today that Arab-Americans had entered a "zone of danger" and were targets of violence by a group seeking to harm "enemies of Israel."

Mr. Webster said that the F.B.I. had found links among a series of recent attacks on Arab-Americans, although he did not provide a detailed description of the group purportedly behind the incidents.

"I think I can say that Arab individuals or those supporting of Arab points of view have come within the zone of danger — targeting by a group as yet to be fully identified and brought to justice," he said in a question-and-answer session with reporters at the National Press Club.

## Five Attacks in 1985

Militant Jewish organizations have come under suspicion in five terrorist attacks this year, including two bombings of Arab-American groups, that have caused two deaths and several injuries.

The F.B.I. had said previously that it believed the Jewish Defense League might be linked to the bombing in Santa Ana, Calif., in October of the office of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. The explosion killed the group's West Coast director. The Defense League has denied any responsibility.

"There appears to be a common activity," Mr. Webster said, "suggesting the same participants who are engaging in terrorist activity, violent criminal activity, in a number of places in the country utilizing similar methods."

Mr. Webster said that those who had orchestrated the attacks were "focusing not specifically upon Arabs as such, but upon all of those who could be in the category of enemies of Israel, and that would include those who are believed, or accused of being neo-Nazis."

## 'This Is a Turning Point'

Arab-American groups said today that they welcomed Mr. Webster's remarks. "I think this is a turning point," said Peter S. Tanous, acting president of the National Association of Arab Americans. "I welcome the comments, although I think they are a little late in coming."

James G. Abourezk, national chairman of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, said, "The authorities are finally beginning to realize that we've been brought into a war situation against our will."

The F.B.I. has begun an investigation to determine whether the civil rights of Arab-Americans have been violated in a series of attacks on the committee's regional offices.

An attempted bombing injured two members of a police bomb squad in Boston last summer. Late last month a fire destroyed the committee's Washington headquarters, and Federal investigators have classified the blaze as "very suspicious."

The group's West Coast director, Alex Odeh, was killed in the California bombing, which occurred Oct. 11.

## F.B.I. Experts Called In

Mr. Webster said that he called in "40 of our experts from around the country on the first of November to marshal our resources in this area."

"We are making some headway," he said without elaboration.

He said individuals claiming to represent "one organization" had taken responsibility for some of the attacks. "The organization itself emphatically denies participation, although sympathizing with the activity," he said.

Bureau officials had previously identified the Jewish Defense League as "the possible responsible group" in the California bombing and two other bomb attacks. League spokesmen did not return phone calls from a reporter today, but they have denied any responsibility.

When the allegations were reported last month, Irv Rubin, national leader of the league, said, "We had nothing to do with any of the bombings. If they have any evidence they will make arrests rather than try to slander us."

A group founded by former league members, the Jewish Defense Organization, said today that it believed it was under investigation by the F.B.I. in connection with some of the attacks.

Mordechai Levy, who leads the Jewish Defense Organization, denied any participation in the recent attacks on Arab-American groups. "I don't know who did those things," he said.

Asked about the attacks on the Arab groups, he said, "We aren't claiming credit, but it couldn't happen to better people, more deserving people. They're getting a taste of their own medicine."

## Two Attacks on East Coast

Federal law-enforcement officials are also investigating bomb attacks on two men in the New York metropolitan area. On Aug. 15, a former member of the German Nazi Waffen SS, Tscherim Soobzokov, was killed when he opened the door of his house in Paterson, N.J.

The following month, Elmars Sprogis of Brentwood, N.Y., a former Latvian police officer who had been cleared on charges that he helped Nazis kill Jews in World War II, escaped injury when a bomb attached to his door went off. A message was sent to a local newspaper saying: "Jewish Defense League. Nazi War Criminal. Never Again."

In other remarks, Mr. Webster discussed the flurry of recent espionage arrests and said that the F.B.I. had spun a "spider web" of surveillance around foreign agents. "By building a spider web throughout the United States that focuses on them rather than on our own citizens, we make it much more difficult for those who would betray this country," he said.

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